

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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UNCLAS ROME 13135

FODAG

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: AORG, EFIN

SUBJ: FAO 1980-81 BUDGET: REAL PROGRAM GROWTH: JULY 19 ROME

GENEVA GROUP MEETING

REF: (A) STATE 177989; (B) ROME 12013; (C) STATE 159970

1. RE PARA 1 OF REFTEL A, GENEVA GROUP'S INTENTION IS NOT TO CONSIDER DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COST OF COUNTRY REP PROGRAM IN 1978-79 AND COST OF SAME PROGRAM ANNUALIZED AT DECEMBER 1979 LEVEL AS REAL PROGRAM GROWTH. BELIEVE THIS WAS INTENT OF INSTRUCTION IN PARA 1 OF REFTEL C WHICH SUGGESTED CONSIDERING THIS INCREMENT AS A COST INCREASE.

2. GENEVA GROUP ROME'S FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE HAS PRODUCED RECOMMENDATION THAT BASE BE DERIVED BY SUBTRACTING SPECIAL DLR 1,200,000 ALLOCATION FOR WCARRD PLUS DLR 2,567,000 IN "UNKNOWN LAPSING PROGRAMS AND ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCIES", HAVING IN MIND THAT THERE WERE DLR 2 MILLION IN PROGRAM SAVINGS IN 1976-77 AND A BUDGETARY CASH SURPLUS OF DLR 7,275,000 EXCLUSIVE OF EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS.

3. SUBCOMMITTEE HAS ALSO PROPOSED SUBTRACTING 1978-79 COUNTRY REP FIGURE FROM BASE AND CALCULATING PERCENT OF REAL PROGRAM UNCLASSIFIED

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GROWTH OFF THAT BASE. AN AGREED FIGURE FOR COUNTRY REPS FOR 1980-81 (WHICH WOULD PRESUMABLY BE CLOSE TO FIGURE DERIVED FROM ANNUALIZING DECEMBER 1979 LEVEL OF THAT PROGRAM) WOULD THEN BE ACCEPTED INDEPENDENTLY OF THE PERCENTAGE LIMIT (E.G. 2 PERCENT PER ANNUM) ON REAL GROWTH.

4. COMMENT: ABOVE DESCRIBED SITUATION GIVES US TWO CHOICES

(AT LEAST) FOR DERIVING BASE. POSITION TAKEN BY GENEVA GROUP AS A WHOLE AT JUNE 27 MEETING AND CLARIFIED IN PARA ONE ABOVE PRODUCES HIGHER BASE THAN SUB-COMMITTEE'S METHOD. HOWEVER, SUBCOMMITTEE'S FORMULA STRIKES US AS ARTIFICIAL SINCE COUNTRY REP PROGRAM IS A RECURRING ONE. WE WOULD FAVOR USING APPROACH DESCRIBED IN PARA 2-B OF REF B WHICH WE BELIEVE IS IN ACCORD WITH PARA 1 OF REF C. WE WOULD ALSO POINT OUT THAT NON-RECURRING COST OF WCARRD IS CONSIDERABLY ABOVE 1.2 MILLION, AS THERE WAS ALREADY SOME PROVISION FOR IT IN PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET ISSUED IN JULY 1977. WOULD WELCOME ANY FURTHER SUGGESTIONS FROM DEPARTMENT ON NON-RECURRING COSTS AND COMMENT ON "UNKNOWN LAPSING PROGRAMS ..."GARDNER

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